



## Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

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### New Information is in Blue Text

<b>Event Name</b>	21-0003 February Winter Weather 2021
<b>Date</b>	March 9, 2021
<b>Time</b>	0900
<b>Operational Period</b>	March 8, 2021- March 9, 2021
<b>Report Number</b>	26

Regions Affected	
<b>DPS Regions Affected</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
<b>DDCs Active</b>	4A, 4B, 6, 7, 9A, 9B, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 18A, 18B, 19, 20, 21 & 23

**STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:** To date, FEMA has approved a total of 21,323 Individual Assistance claims totaling \$65,374, 464 under the Individual and Households Program for Texans that suffered losses during the February Winter Weather. ([link](#))

On March 3, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a disaster designation for 23 counties in response to severe winter weather that has impacted the state. USDA continues to review production losses in all remaining Texas counties and may make future determinations as more information becomes available. The Governor requested this designation in February.

This designation makes federal assistance, such as emergency loans, available to agricultural producers who have suffered losses in designated counties, as well as in counties that are contiguous to a designated county.

Counties included in this designation are Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo, McLennan, Starr, Webb, and Zapata. Contiguous counties included in this designation are Bell, Bosque, Brooks, Coryell, Dimmit, Falls, Hill, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, La Salle, Limestone, Live Oak, McMullen, Maverick, and Willacy.

On March 2, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) has requested that an additional 32 counties be added to the federal Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance. The Governor originally requested Individual Assistance for all 254 Texas counties on February 18. On February 20, the White House partially approved Texas' request for a Major Disaster Declaration. The partial approval included Individual Assistance in 77 counties and Public Assistance (Emergency Protective Measures only) in all 254 counties. An additional 31 counties were approved by FEMA on February 22 with 18 counties approved on February 26 for a total of 126 counties added to the declaration.

Additional counties will continue to be re-requested as the State of Texas continues to receive information reported from individuals who have suffered damage from the winter storm. Texans are urged to fill out the TDEM's State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) to help the state identify damages across Texas and help emergency management officials gain an understanding of damages that occurred during the recent severe winter weather. TDEM will continue to share this data with FEMA until all Texas counties that qualify for federal assistance receive the assistance they need. Texans can complete the iSTAT by visiting [damage.tdem.texas.gov](http://damage.tdem.texas.gov) or calling 844-844-3089.

Counties included in this request are: Archer, Callahan, Camp, Cass, Coleman, Delta, Dimmit, Fayette, Frio, Hamilton, Hardeman, Kerr, Kinney, Lamar, Lee, Marion, Menard, Midland, Mills, Mitchell, Nolan, Rains, Red River, Refugio, San Augustine, Shackelford, Starr, Titus, Uvalde, Wilbarger, Zapata, Zavala.

On February 26, Governor Abbott announced that FEMA has added 18 more Texas counties to President Biden's Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance. These 18 counties were included in a request submitted by the State of Texas yesterday for the addition of 54 counties to the declaration.

Additional counties will be re-requested as the State of Texas continues to receive information reported from individuals who have suffered damage from the winter storm. Texans are urged to fill out the TDEM's State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) to help the state identify damages across Texas and help emergency management officials gain an understanding of damages that occurred during the recent winter weather. FEMA has asked the state of Texas for additional information regarding the amount of damage in the counties that have yet to be declared, and TDEM will continue to present that information until all Texas counties that qualify for federal assistance receive the assistance they need.

The 18 counties include Atascosa, Bandera, Brooks, Duval, Eastland, Ector, Goliad, Howard, Jim Hogg, Karnes, Kleberg, Leon, Llano, Newton, Robertson, Trinity, Webb, and Willacy.

On February 24, Governor Abbott delivered a televised statewide address on the state's response to recent power outages caused by the severe winter weather as well as the actions the state is taking to ensure the reliability of Texas' power infrastructure. [Read a transcript of Governor Abbott's address.](#)

Governor Abbott and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) have issued a temporary waiver to increase the fuel supply in Texas. This waiver permits regulated refineries to make fuel in compliance with any seasonal specifications and authorizes parties downstream of the refinery, such as terminals and retail fuel stations, to distribute fuel of any seasonal specification until stocks are depleted.

This allowance will expand gasoline production and distribution while ensuring that refiners, distributors, and retailers do not face administrative penalties for having fuel that does not meet set seasonal requirements.

On February 25, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM has re-requested that an additional 54 counties be added to the Federal Major Disaster Declaration. The Governor originally requested Individual Assistance for all 254 Texas counties on February 18th. On February 20th, the White House partially approved Texas' request for a Major Disaster Declaration. The partial approval included Individual Assistance in 77 counties and for Public Assistance (Emergency Protective Measures Only) in all 254 counties. On Monday, TDEM re-requested — and FEMA approved — an additional 31 counties to be added to the President's Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance.

Additional counties will continue to be re-requested as the State of Texas continues to receive information reported from individuals who have suffered damage from the winter storm. Texans are urged to fill out the Texas Division of Emergency Management's State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) to help the state identify damages across Texas and help emergency management officials gain an understanding of damages that occurred during the recent winter weather. FEMA has asked the State of Texas for additional information regarding the amount of damage in the counties that have yet to be declared, and TDEM will continue to present that information until all Texas counties that qualify for federal assistance receive the assistance they need. Texans can complete the iSTAT by visiting [damage.tdem.texas.gov](http://damage.tdem.texas.gov) or calling 844-844-3089.

Counties included in this request are Archer, Atascosa, Bandera, Brooks, Callahan, Camp, Cass, Clay, Coleman, Delta, Dimmit, Duval, Eastland, Ector, Fayette, Franklin, Frio, Goliad, Hamilton, Haskell, Howard, Irion, Jack, Jim Hogg, Karnes, Kerr, Kinney, Kleberg, Lamar, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Live Oak, Llano, Marion, Midland, Mills, Morris, Newton, Rains, Randall, Refugio, Robertson, San Augustine, San Saba, Shackelford, Somervell, Starr, Titus, Trinity, Webb, Wilbarger, Willacy, and Young.

On February 25, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM, with the assistance of the Texas Military Department (TMD), launched a call center to assist Texans, who have limited or no internet access, with completing the State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT). Texans can call 844-844-3089 between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM seven days a week to submit their disaster damage information. This call center is specifically for Texans who are unable to submit information through the online iSTAT tool.

If needed, a state emergency management professional will visit impacted homes to collect photos and documentation of damage for the validation process.

Texans are urged to fill out the iSTAT, either online or over the phone if internet access is limited, to help the state identify damages across Texas and help emergency management officials gain an understanding of damages that occurred during the recent severe winter weather event. This data is also needed to provide information to FEMA and highlight the need for federal disaster assistance for individuals.

Visit <http://damage.tdem.texas.gov> to fill out the iSTAT.

On February 24, Governor Abbott and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) have extended the submission deadline for housing tax credit applications. The original deadline of March 1 has been pushed to Monday, March 8th at 5:00 PM CT to allow extra time for housing developers to secure documentation or other communications needed while people were out of service.

On February 24, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has received federal approval to automatically provide replacement benefits for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in 66 impacted counties for food lost or destroyed due to winter storm Uri, which began on Feb. 11. Those 66 counties met federal criteria for mass replacements of benefits based on the severity of storm impacts in their area.

Current SNAP recipients in the 66 counties receiving approval for automatic replacement benefits do not need to take any action and do not need to call 2-1-1 to receive their replacement benefits. Recipients in the affected counties will automatically receive a percentage of their February benefit allotment on their Lone Star cards by March 4.

Counties eligible to receive automatic partial replacement include: Angelina, Aransas, Bastrop, Blanco, Borden, Brazoria, Brewster, Burnet, Calhoun, Chambers, Coke, Colorado, Comanche, Cooke, Delta, Duval, Eastland, Edwards, Falls, Frio, Galveston, Garza, Gillespie, Glasscock, Goliad, Haskell, Irion, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kerr, Kinney, Knox, La Salle, Leon, Liberty, Live Oak, Llano, Loving, Lynn, Martin, Matagorda, McCulloch, Medina, Menard, Mitchell, Montgomery, Oldham, Parker, Reagan, Refugio, San Patricio, San Saba, Stephens, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Throckmorton, Trinity, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Waller, Williamson, Young, Zapata, and Zavala.

Texans who do not live in one of the 66 eligible counties have until March 31 to report SNAP food loss and request replacement benefits. SNAP recipients in these counties must apply for replacement benefits. SNAP recipients in the 66 counties can also report other food loss and request additional benefits until March 31.

To allow people to continue social distancing and stay at home, HHSC is encouraging SNAP clients to request their replacement food benefits by calling 2-1-1 and pressing option 2. Alternately, recipients can download [Form H1855](#) (Affidavit for Nonreceipt or Destroyed Food Stamp Benefits) on the HHSC website. To limit exposure to COVID-19, recipients are encouraged to mail or fax the completed form to HHSC instead of visiting their local offices. Completed forms should be mailed to Texas Health and Human Services Commission, PO Box 149027, Austin, TX, 78714-9027, or faxed to 1-877-447-2839. For more information, please visit [hhs.texas.gov](https://hhs.texas.gov).

To check benefit amounts deposited on a card, SNAP recipients with an online account can visit [YourTexasBenefits.com](https://YourTexasBenefits.com), or they can call the Lone Star Help Desk at 800-777-7328. Administered by HHSC, SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to approximately 1.6 million eligible, low-income families and individuals in Texas. Texans in need can apply for benefits, including SNAP and Medicaid, at [YourTexasBenefits.com](https://YourTexasBenefits.com) or use the Your Texas Benefits mobile app to manage their benefits.

On February 23, Governor Abbott and the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSPBE) announced that the board has identified an additional 500 licensees, as of Sunday, who are capable of performing plumbing under general supervision. These additional licensees have been identified through previously granted waivers to increase the availability of plumbers and Plumber's Apprentices to repair burst pipes as the state recovers from the winter storm.

On February 22, Governor Abbott announced that FEMA has approved an additional 31 Texas counties to be added to the President's Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance. The Governor originally requested Individual Assistance for all 254 Texas counties on February 13th. On February 20th, the White House partially approved Texas' request for a Major Disaster Declaration. The partial approval included Individual Assistance in 77 counties and for Public Assistance (Emergency Protective Measures Only) in all 254 counties.

Counties included in this approval are Anderson, Austin, Bosque, Bowie, Burnet, Cherokee, Colorado, Erath, Fannin, Freestone, Gonzales, Grayson, Gregg, Harrison, Hill, Houston, Hunt, Jackson, Jim Wells, Jones, Limestone, Lubbock, Medina, Milam, Navarro, Rusk, Taylor, Tom Green, Val Verde, Washington, Wood.

On February 21, Governor Abbott held a press conference in San Antonio where he provided an update on the state's efforts to provide water and other resources to Texans across the state. The Governor's press conference was held at Port San

Antonio, where members of the National Guard are currently unloading water and other resources to distribute to communities in Texas.

The Governor noted that power and water are continuing to be restored throughout Texas and that multiple state agencies are working together to ensure communities have access to water, food, and other resources as communities begin to recover from the severe winter storm.

The state has deployed trucks and aircraft to deliver water to communities, including 162 truck delivers that have delivered a total of 2 million bottles of water and 1.4 million bottles of water that have been delivered by plane and helicopter. State agencies are working with local officials to set up staging sites for distribution. The state has also suspended size, weight, hours-of-service requirements, and more to get more commercial trucks on the road to deliver supplies across the state. Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), blankets, and generators have been provided to communities in need. In addition, the Governor has waived regulations to allow the use of unlicensed kitchens to prepare meals to donate to Texans so long as they abide by guidance issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Governor Abbott also mentioned that he is working with members of the legislature to address skyrocketing energy bills that resulted from a temporary spike in the energy market. He said that they are working quickly to calculate the total cost of these bills and find ways that the state can help reduce this burden. The Governor stated that the Public Utility Commission has issued a moratorium on customer disconnections for non-payment and will temporarily restrict providers from issuing invoices. This pause will ensure that the state has time to address these bills and develop a solution for Texans.

On February 21, Governor Abbott announced HHSC received federal approval to allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to use their food benefits to purchase hot foods and ready-to-eat meals due to impacts from the severe winter storm.

SNAP recipients can now use their benefits for hot foods and ready-to-eat foods, such as rotisserie chicken or grocery store deli foods, at retailers that accept SNAP anywhere in the state.

HHSC received federal approval today from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. The waiver allows SNAP recipients to purchase these ready-made foods with their Lone Star Cards through the end of March.

Additionally, Texas received federal approval Feb. 19 to allow SNAP recipients to apply for replacement benefits for food lost or destroyed due to the severe weather.

Administered by HHSC, SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to approximately 1.6 million eligible, low-income families and individuals in Texas. Texans in need can apply for benefits, including SNAP and Medicaid, at

YourTexasBenefits.com or use the Your Texas Benefits mobile app to manage their benefits. To find local resources in your area, such as food or shelter, please call 2-1-1 and select option 1.

On February 20, Governor Abbott announced that President Biden has partially approved Texas' request for a Major Disaster Declaration (DR-4586-TX). The Governor requested the Major Disaster Declaration on Thursday for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance in all 254 counties. The Biden administration approved the request for Individual Assistance in 77 counties and for Public Assistance (Emergency Protective Measures Only) in all 254 counties.

The Governor and TDEM will continue to work to ensure the federal government provides appropriate assistance to individual Texans as well as to the state and local governments.

The Governor requested the Major Disaster Declaration to provide Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation for individuals and communities affected by this week's severe winter weather.

The following counties were approved for Individual Assistance: Angelina, Aransas, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazoria, Brazos, Brown, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Collin, Comal, Comanche, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, Ellis, Falls, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gillespie, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hood, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Kaufman, Kendall, Lavaca, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Maverick, McLennan, Montague, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Nueces, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Polk, Rockwall, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Scurry, Shelby, Smith, Stephens, Tarrant, Travis, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wharton, Wichita, Williamson, Wilson, and Wise Counties.

Individuals and business owners in counties included in the President's declaration who sustained losses in the designated area can begin applying for assistance by registering online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585

On February 20, Governor Abbott issued waivers to temporarily allow for the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to cover overtime payments for meat inspectors in Texas. DSHS will pay overtime costs for meat inspectors that are working to restore the meat supply in Texas over the next week.

On February 20, Governor Abbott waived certain regulations for certain registered and qualified Plumber's Apprentices in Texas. These waivers allow a Plumber's Apprentice, who has met all other qualifications, to temporarily perform plumbing repairs without 'direct' supervision by a licensed plumber so long as the qualified Plumber's Apprentice works under the general supervision of a responsible master plumber.

On February 20, Governor Abbott issued a statement after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued waivers to increase access to gasoline and diesel fuel in certain Texas communities impacted by winter weather. These waivers temporarily allow for the use of an additional or alternate type of fuel for Texas Low Emissions Diesel and oxygenated gasoline fuels. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality submitted a request for these waivers yesterday.

On February 20, Governor Abbott convened a meeting with Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Speaker Dade Phelan, and members of the Legislature to discuss the spike in energy bills affecting many Texans following the recent power outages throughout the state.

Governor Abbott opened the call by discussing financial challenges many Texans will face as a result of the winter storm. He also gave an update on his conversations with the White House and potential federal relief that may be available to Texans. The Governor discussed the need to ensure that Texans are not left with unreasonable utility bills they cannot afford because of the temporary massive spike in the energy market. Senator West stressed the need for Republicans and Democrats to work together on this issue. The Senator noted that this group of legislators and state leaders will not allow politics to get in the way of solving this problem for Texans. Lt. Governor Patrick and Speaker Phelan discussed the need to swiftly develop a solution for Texans. The discussion with legislators focused on the need to quickly calculate the total cost of these energy bills and how the state can help reduce this burden. The call concluded with a discussion about addressing the immediate needs of Texans and how to ensure that Texans are protected long-term.

In addition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House, the following legislators attended the meeting:

- Senator Jane Nelson – Chair of Senate Finance Committee
- Senator Eddie Lucio Jr. – Vice Chair of Senate Finance Committee
- Senator Kelly Hancock – Chair of Senate Business and Commerce Committee
- Senator Robert Nichols – Vice Chair of Senate Business and Commerce Committee
- Senator Royce West - Vice Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee
- Representative Greg Bonnen – Chair of House Appropriations Committee
- Representative Chris Paddie – Chair of House State Affairs Committee
- Representative Ana Hernandez – Vice Chair of House State Affairs Committee
- Representative Craig Goldman – Chair of House Energy Resources Committee

On February 20, Governor Abbott waived regulations to enable trucks from the alcohol industry to deliver non-alcoholic grocery supplies, including bottled water and other necessities, to grocery stores. These waivers will help expedite the delivery and replenishment of products in grocery stores across the state.

On February 19, Governor Abbott and TDEM are encouraging Texans to complete the Self Reporting Damage Survey to help the state identify damages across Texas and help emergency management officials gain an understanding of damages that occurred during the recent winter weather. This data is also needed to provide information to FEMA and highlight the need for federal disaster assistance for individuals.

The voluntary survey, available in both English and Spanish, can be accessed by visiting: [www.TDEM.texas.gov/warm](http://www.TDEM.texas.gov/warm). Reporting damage to the Texas Division of Emergency Management is a voluntary activity, is not a substitute for reporting damage to an insurance agency and does not guarantee disaster relief assistance.

On February 19, President Biden approved emergency declarations for Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, authorizing FEMA to provide emergency protective measures for mass care and sheltering and direct federal assistance. Governor Abbott requested a major disaster declaration, which is under review. FEMA has moved water, blankets, shelf-stable meals, generators, and fuel to help states respond to this event.

On February 19, Governor Abbott provided an update on the state's ongoing response to winter weather events throughout the state. The Governor laid out four immediate priorities for the State of Texas, as well as what the state is doing to restore power and water and ensure that food and fuel demands are met throughout Texas.

The first immediate priority is continuing to restore power to Texas homes. While there are no longer any residential power outages due to lack of power generation, there are still some Texans without power due to downed lines or the need for manual reconnection. The Governor assured Texans without power that local providers are working diligently to restore electricity.

The second priority is supporting local officials as they work to restore water for Texans. Today, the Governor issued waivers to cut red tape to accelerate this process. The Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ), as of 5 PM today, is standing up a phone bank for local water utilities who are unable to get water testing at their contracted labs. This phone bank will connect local facilities with another lab that can test their water quickly. TCEQ has partnered with the EPA to stand up three mobile water testing labs. In addition, the state is partnering with local river authorities to use their water labs to assist locals with bacteria sampling. Texas has also partnered with the state of Arkansas to use their labs. Additionally, TCEQ is coordinating with larger local labs that have testing availability to assist smaller municipalities. The Governor noted that he held a call earlier today with the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) to discuss ways to quickly repair burst pipes for Texans across the state. As of noon today, over 320 plumbers have renewed their license, and TSBPE is coordinating with multiple out-of-state plumbing companies to send additional plumbers to Texas. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) is continuing to deliver bottled water to

communities facing water shortages or water quality issues. Over 1.7 million bottles of water have been delivered to communities across the state.

The third priority is ensuring Texans have the food and supplies they need. The Governor noted that he has already suspended some regulations relating to commercial vehicles, which will speed the delivery of food and other resources to communities across the state. The State is taking steps to open new fuel supply lines to ensure truckers, agriculture producers, emergency responders, and anyone else that runs on diesel will be able to get food to stores and supplies to Texans in need. The Governor announced that he is allowing the use of off-road road diesel on Texas roads. Governor Abbott and Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar are requesting fuel waivers from the EPA and the IRS to allow for the use of all forms of diesel on Texas roads to keep our truckers moving. As roads conditions continue to improve, more food and supplies will be delivered to grocery stores across the state.

The fourth priority is helping refineries get back up and running to provide Texans with the fuel they need. In addition to fuel regulation suspensions previously mentioned, the Governor spoke with oil and gas refineries earlier today to work on strategies to get their operations up and running again.

On February 19, Attorney General Paxton issued Civil Investigative Demands (CIDs) to ERCOT and other power companies regarding power outages, emergency plans, energy pricing, and more related to this week's winter weather disaster. The large-scale failure of Texas power companies to withstand the winter storm left multiple millions of Texans without power and heat during lethal, record-low temperatures across the state.

On February 18, Governor Abbott temporarily waived certain regulations from the Department of Motor Vehicles to aid in the response to winter weather and power outages throughout the state. The waivers issued by the Governor will allow commercial vehicles conducting responsive activities to travel in Texas as long as the vehicle is registered elsewhere. They will also allow commercial vehicles conducting responsive activities not currently registered under the International Registration Plan to travel in Texas, so long as the vehicle is registered in one of the 48 contiguous states in the U.S.

These waivers are helping increase the delivery of water, food, and other supplies to Texas communities dealing with power and water outages.

These suspensions are in addition to the oversize and overweight permitting waivers and the hours-of-service requirement waivers issued by Governor Abbott last Friday, which allows critical infrastructure, food, water, and supplies to travel on the state highway system to areas of need.

On February 18, Governor Abbott provided an update on the state's response to winter weather and power outages. As part of his update, the Governor declared a

new emergency item for this legislative session. The Governor is asking the Legislature to mandate the winterization of Texas' power system and for the Legislature to ensure the necessary funding for winterization.

In addition, the Governor announced he is requesting a Major Disaster Declaration — which includes Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program — from the White House. This declaration will allow eligible Texans to apply for assistance to help address broken pipes and related property damage. The Governor previously requested a Federal Emergency Declaration from the White House which was granted on Sunday.

Power has been restored to nearly 2 million homes across Texas since yesterday's briefing. This number continues to climb, and there are no more outages due to a lack of generation. Every available repair truck in Texas has been dispatched to address downed power lines that are causing continued outages. Earlier today, the Governor held calls with power and water providers to develop strategies that will increase access to additional power, as well as restore water and expedite additional clean water in communities across the state.

The state is also working to distribute food, water, generators, and additional supplies to Texas communities. Additionally, more warming centers continue to be established every day. For winter weather resources, including a map of warming centers and ways to help Texans in need, visit: <https://open.texas.gov/winter>

On February 17, Governor Abbott provided an update on the state's response to severe winter weather conditions and power outages throughout the state. The Governor discussed the weather forecast, response efforts to assist Texans in need, water quality, and other issues affecting communities across the state.

The Governor discussed the current power situation in Texas and what the state is doing to get more Texans back online. There remains about 10,000 megawatts (MW) that are off the power grid in Texas. About 6,000 MW have been added to the Texas grid over the past day, which is equivalent to power for about 1.2 million households. In addition to the 6,000 MW restored to the grid, additional power generation from coal and other sources will continue to come online throughout Thursday. Small natural gas generators should sporadically add megawatts over the next 24 hours to help bring electricity to thousands of Texans. There are still challenges with all sources of generation, resulting from mechanical difficulties, gas supply issues, and the effects of extreme winter weather conditions.

The Governor has ordered natural gas producers not to export product out of state until February 21 and instead sell it to providers within Texas. The Governor also noted that he has been working closely with the White House to provide additional resources for Texans and expand the supply of the energy in the state. The Texas Railroad Commission has worked closely with the Public Utility Commission, Electric Reliability Council of Texas, and other state and local agencies to ensure that electricity and gas can swiftly be provided across the state.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) addressed water quality issues impacting communities across the state. TCEQ is working with water quality labs to ensure the safety of drinking water. TCEQ is also working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify other water quality labs in partnering states to provide additional assistance.

The Governor discussed the ways the state is dealing with plumbing challenges. The Texas Board of Plumbing Examiners can give provisional licenses to out-of-state plumbers to increase the response to burst pipes and flooding. The Governor will also issue a waiver that allows plumbers currently holding an expired license to assist with Texans in need following the storm through the waiving of certain fees and examination requirements.

TDEM Chief Nim Kidd noted that many state agencies are continuing to work together to support local officials, first responders, and communities impacted by the weather. The Texas Department of Public Safety have transported fuel, blood, and other resources to hospitals and other essential facilities, and have responded to vehicle crashes throughout the state. Over 4,500 Texas Department of Transportation employees are operating over 740 snowplows and other equipment to address the ice on interstates throughout Texas. The Texas Department of State Health Services, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are also assisting in the state's response.

TDEM has been assisting in the establishment of warming centers throughout the state. Over 300 warming centers were operational. For more information on warming centers and to find one near you, visit: <https://tdem.texas.gov/warm/>. TDEM is also working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to increase disaster resources for Texans impacted by the storm.

On February 15, Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas deployed maximum resources to local officials throughout the state to respond to severe winter weather and to restore power to our communities. State agencies sent resources and personnel to help local officials' clear roadways and to assist essential workers, such as healthcare professionals and power grid workers, in carrying out their essential duties.

Furthermore, Governor Abbott and the Texas Military Department (TMD) have deployed the National Guard across Texas to conduct welfare checks and to assist local authorities in transitioning Texans in need to one of the 135 local warming centers that the state has helped establish across Texas.

On Sunday, Governor Abbott sought and received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that allows Texas power generators to increase production. Unfortunately, some of those generators are unable to increase production at this time because their operations have been frozen by weather conditions. They are working to get their power production back on-line.

ERCOT's ability to provide power has been limited by the ability of private power generators of all sources, including natural gas, wind, and solar, to generate power for the grid. To avoid large scale blackouts and damage to the grid, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas began implementing outages to preserve the integrity of the power grid while the companies that generate power work to restore power generation.

On February 14, Governor Abbott announced that the White House issued a Federal Emergency Declaration for Texas in response to the severe winter weather throughout the state (EM-3554-TX). The Governor submitted a request for this declaration on Saturday to assist the State in response efforts related to the storm.

This Federal Emergency Declaration authorizes FEMA to provide emergency protective measures for mass care and sheltering and Direct Federal Assistance for all 254 counties in Texas.

On February 13, Governor Abbott provided an update from the Alternate State Operations Center on the severe winter weather that is impacting the State of Texas. The Governor noted that snow and ice are expected throughout Texas for the next few days and ultra-low temperatures will linger throughout the upcoming week — meaning that many road closures and extremely dangerous conditions are expected. The Governor also announced that he will request a Federal Emergency Declaration from the White House to make additional resources available for communities impacted by this weather event.

The Governor addressed power and energy concerns on Monday and Tuesday. Power companies already have crews in place, and other states have deployed power crews to Texas to assist in potential power outages. The Texas Railroad Commission has suspended regulations to ensure churches, hospitals, residences, and other human resource facilities have access to gas throughout the winter weather event. The State of Texas is asking Texans to begin conserving energy now to ensure power and energy are available early next week by unplugging devices when not in use, closing windows and blinds, and adjusting thermostats to 68 degrees or below. The Governor and the TDEM Chief also discussed the increased risk of carbon monoxide poisoning in such conditions and urged Texans to avoid heating their homes with ovens or stovetops and only use generators or grills outdoors and away from windows.

Local officials have established 34 warming centers in communities across the state and sent numerous vehicles, wreckers, ambulances, and personnel to assist in stranded motor operations and community support. Governor Abbott urged Texans to stay off the roads if they can and immediately call 800-525-5555 for roadside assistance if they become stranded on the road. The Texas Department of Public Safety has activated over 3,000 troopers that are working 24/7 to assist communities with their response. The Texas Military Department has also deployed Guardsmen to perform welfare checks in remote areas of the state.

On February 12, Governor Abbott issued a disaster declaration in all 254 counties in response to severe winter weather that is impacting Texas. The Governor is continuing to deploy state resources available to assist local officials in their response efforts and has ordered the Texas State Operations Center (SOC) to expand its daily operations to 24-hours a day through the end of next week.

### **OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:**

1. Protect life and property.
2. Damage assessments.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

### **Region 3** (Includes DDCs 19, 20, 21, and 24)

**DDC 20 Corpus Christi** (Includes: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties)

#### **Duval County:**

**City of Benavides:** Does not have running water. Three semi-truck loads of drinking water and one semi-truckload of MRE's have been delivered.

### **State Resources Committed:**

**Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM):** The State of Texas SOC remains at Readiness Level II Escalated Response Conditions, with Daily Operations staff coordinating daily weather calls, processing disaster declarations, letters to the Governor, Disaster Summary Outlines, State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs), preparing Snapshots and the State SITREPs. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the Remote SOC, working together with activated members of the State's Emergency Management Council. TDEM District Coordinators are working closely with their local emergency management partners and various members of the public health community to assist with unmet needs and resources. TDEM has also submitted several requests to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VI Response Center for fuel, water, transportation, ambulances, blankets, generators, and other emergency supplies.

**Texas Division of Emergency Management – Disaster Recovery Task Force (TDEM-DRTF):** As of Friday, February 12 the DRTF began 24/7 rotations at the State Operation Center to assist with mass care needs and regional situational awareness.

- Regional Disaster Finance Coordinators continue to provide guidance to local jurisdictions on cost tracking and DSO submission.
- DRTF Regional Coordinators continue to engage with local jurisdictions and VOADs on resource needs and mass care guidance.
- DRTF assisting in the identification of local resources to meet needs within their communities.
- The DRTF is in contact with local, State and National mission-driven organizations, to include Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) member agencies for situational awareness and monitoring of current and future needs. The DRTF distributed a winter weather resource guide for distribution to LTRGs and VOADs.

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):** TCEQ is currently tracking issues concerning drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities across the state.

Drinking Water Systems (as of 10:00 am)

- 3 are not operational.
- 38 systems are under a Boil Water Notice serving a population of 18,151.
- 2,232 Boil Water Notices have been rescinded.

Wastewater Facilities (as of 10:00 am)

- 1 is not operational.

TCEQ will continue to provide technical assistance to these systems until they can return to normal operations. TCEQ has established a phone bank to help Public Water Systems find available laboratories to analyze samples.

Approximately 91 Drinking Water Accredited labs are qualified to run bacteriological samples.

**Ambient Monitoring Stations:** TCEQ is conducting handheld monitoring along industrial corridors in Houston, Beaumont, and Corpus Christi to assess air quality. Air monitoring is being conducted by regional TCEQ staff to monitor for volatile organic compounds, lower explosive level, carbon monoxide, oxygen levels, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, in addition to other compounds on an as needed basis. The [mobile monitoring vans](#) deployed and surveyed communities in the Beaumont, Port Neches, and Port Arthur areas. TCEQ's SMART vans conducted surveys in the Corpus industrial areas, [Baytown](#), [Galena Park](#), [Channelview](#), and [Houston Cloverleaf](#).

The EPA deployed its Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) plane, staff, and equipment to Southeast Texas to collect air

monitoring data over Beaumont, Corpus Christi, and Houston Areas. [ASPECT flights are scheduled to continue through March 12,](#)

Consistent with the Governor's Proclamation of February 12, 2021, the TCEQ requested written approval for the suspension of the rules that may prevent, hinder, or delay necessary actions needed to respond to the severe winter weather event. A full list may be found at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/temporary-suspension-of-rules-due-to-severe-weather>.

TCEQ has created a Severe Cold Weather Event Response webpage to provide assistance at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/temporary-suspension-of-rules-due-to-severe-weather>.

**Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC):** HHSC is working remote and continuing recovery efforts related to the February Winter Weather Incident. Current activities include monitoring State of Texas Assistance Requests (STAR) for HHSC-provided assets. On February 15, HHSC received a STAR for activation of emergency ice, water, and freight contracts. To date, the agency has received a total of 31 STARs for water.

**Texas Military Department (TMD):** TMD continues to support the February winter weather response in Texas:

- TMD has deployed [172](#) personnel in support of Winter Weather Response.
- TMD is supporting POD Operations in Austin and Bexar County.
- TMD is manning a call center for Texans to report property damage and unmet needs resulting from the winter weather event.
- TMD is activating Health and Safety Assessment Teams in all six TDEM regions.

#### STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
HHSC	SOC Liaisons	2		Assigned	RSOC
TMD	TMD Military District Coordinator	0		Released	San Antonio
TMD	Battle Staff/LNO's/TEOC	0		Released	Austin
TMD	POD Operation	34		Assigned	Bexar County
TMD	Call Center	30		Assigned	Austin/SOC
TMD	Assessment Teams	58		Assigned	Statewide
TMD	Water Distribution	50		Assigned	Austin

**FINAL COMMENTS:** The State Operations Center (SOC) is at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)

continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

**The four levels of SOC activation are:**

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

*This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:*  
<https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

**W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM**

Chief – Texas Division of Emergency Management  
Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services  
Texas A&M University System

<https://tdem.texas.gov/>

Twitter: [@TDEM](#)

(512) 424-2208 (24/7)